



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,706	04/13/2004	Tomotoshi Senoh	086142-0629	2928
22428	7590	12/05/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			KAYES, SEAN PHILLIP	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/822,706	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SENOH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Sean Kayes	<b>Art Unit</b> 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker (US 6092838.)

3. With respect to claim 1 Walker discloses a device for measuring a weight of a seat, including the weight of an occupant sitting on the seat, the device comprising:

- a resilient member (16 figure 2) supported by at least
- one support point (50c figure 2);
- a load sensor (174a-b figure 4 and 30 figure 2) supported by a sensor support and in communication with the resilient member and positioned to receive the weight of the seat; wherein
- the device is configured so that the weight of the seat is applied between the at least one support point and the sensor point (figure 2.)

4. With respect to claim 2 Walker discloses the device of claim 1, wherein the resilient member (16 figure 2) is single acting part.

Art Unit: 2841

5. With respect to claim 3 Walker discloses the device of claim 1, wherein the resilient member has two acting parts (16 figure 2 has a left acting part acted on by 68c and a right part acted on by 68d, figure 2.)

6. With respect to claim 4 Walker discloses the device of claim 1 further comprising a pin bracket (68c figure 2) adapted to be in communication with the seat and the resilient member.

7. With respect to claim 5 Walker discloses the device of claim 4, wherein the pin bracket (68c figure 2) is rotatably supported by a base pin (102a figure 1c.)

8. With respect to claim 6 Walker discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the pin bracket (68c figure 2) transmits the seat weight to a bracket pin (102b figure 1c.)

9. With respect to claim 7 Walker discloses a device for measuring seat weight including the weight of an occupant sitting on the seat, the device comprising:

- a base having two side plates (figure 1a shows item 50a having a plate on either side of item 26a);
- an arm (26a figure 1a) rotatably supported by and interdisposed between the side plates of the base via a base pin;
- a pin bracket (68a figure 1b) in communication with the arm via
- a bracket pin (102b figure 1c) and further in communication with the seat;

Art Unit: 2841

- a load sensor (104a figure 1c) in communication with the arm; and
- wherein the pin bracket is located between the base pin and the load sensor (figure 2.)

10. With respect to claim 8 Walker discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the arm comprises a single acting part (16 figure 2.)

11. With respect to claim 9 Walker discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the arm comprises two acting parts (16 figure 2 has a left acting part acted on by 68c and a right part acted on by 68d, figure 2.)

12. With respect to claim 10 Walker discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the pin bracket (68c figure 2) of the present invention is rotatably supported by the base pin (102a figure 1c.)

13. With respect to claim 11 Walker discloses the device of claim 10, wherein the pin bracket (68c figure 2) transmits the seat weight to the bracket pin (102b figure 1c.)

14. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooper (US 6448512)

15. With respect to claim 7 Cooper discloses a device for measuring seat weight including the weight of an occupant sitting on the seat, the device comprising:

Art Unit: 2841

- a base (60 figure 2) having two side plates;
- an arm (70 figure 2) rotatably supported by and interdisposed between the side plates of the base via a base pin (66 figure 2);
- a pin bracket (79 figure 2) in communication with the arm via
- a bracket pin (46 figure 2) and further in communication with the seat;
- a load sensor (80 figure 2) in communication with the arm; and
- wherein the pin bracket is located between the base pin and the load sensor (figure 2.)

16. With respect to claim 12 Cooper discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the arm (70 figure 2) comprises two arm sideplates.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Aoki.

19. With respect to claim 13 Cooper discloses the device of claim 12 further comprising a spring (95 figure 2) interdisposed between the two arm side plates. Cooper does not disclose wherein the spring is a spring leaf.

Art Unit: 2841

Aoki teaches a weight transmission method wherein a weight transmitting bracket is biased toward a center position by a leaf spring.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a leaf spring for biasing the weight transmitting bracket toward a center position as taught by Aoki. The suggestion or motivation would be to bias the bracket to a center position as taught by Aoki.

Art Unit: 2841

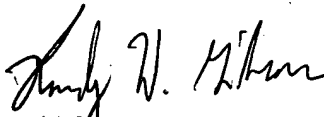
**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Kayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-8931. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SK  
11/29/2006

  
**RANDY W. GIBSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**